

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via first class mail postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, MS: RCE.

Dated: February 8, 2006

Signature:

*Joyce A. Krumpke*  
(Joyce A. Krumpke)

Docket No.: 209529-81571  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Steven Shepard

Application No.: 09/453,319

Confirmation No.: 2455

Filed: December 2, 1999

Art Unit: 2859

For: Method and Apparatus for Detecting Kissing  
Unbond Defects

Examiner: G. K. Verbitsky

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In view of the Final Office Action dated August 10, 2005 and Applicant's Notice of Appeal filed on November 8, 2005, prior to examining the above-referenced application on its merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

